1: McGee, W. J. The Seri Indians. 17th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Part 1, pp. 1-344. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1898.

HRAF copy

[The linguistic materials on pp. 295-344 have not been processed for the files.]

[The sections included in the files provide a general account of Seri culture and a history of Seri contacts with Mexicans and Europeans. The early sections of the work provide a very detailed account of the Seri habitat and include information on physical characteristics and contacts. The cultural sections deal with food getting techniques, eating, clothing, body decoration and ornamentation, material culture, military tactics, marriage, burial, clan and family organization, political leadership and attitudes toward foreigners. Much of the book is couched in a developmental framework and the author considers the Seri to be quite primitive. Considerable attention is also given to the relation of cultural characteristics, environment and physiological characteristics. Although the author, an ethnologist, did field work in the

1: McGee, W. J.

general Seri area he was not able to penetrate Seri territory and obtained most of his information from interviews and observations of Seri who lived near or visited the vicinity of a Mexican rancheria. --Analyst]

Field date: 1894-1895
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

2: Kroeber, Alfred L. The Seri. Southwest Museum Papers, No. 6, Los Angeles, 1931.

Pp. 60; 15 photographs

Yale: C52.320 5-7

[This work is the result of field studies by the author following the work of McGee and Davis (see 1: McGee and 3: Davis and Dawson, this file). The author, consequently, does not attempt any examination of the material or economic culture which was more fully investigated by Davis; he instead confines his efforts to the presentation of a small amount of new material, considerable discussion of McGee's work, and a comparative summary of Seri culture. Thus, although this source does not add a great deal of new information on the Seri, it is especially valuable as a critical study and in its summation of knowledge of the Seri. It is an excellent introduction to the Seri, being both brief and general. --Analyst]

Field date: 1930
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

3: Davis, Edward H. and E. Yale Dawson. The Savage Seris of Sonora. The Scientific Monthly, Vol. 60, pp. 193-202, 261-268. Washington: American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1945.

Yale: A79 185 60

[This source is a semi-popular, rather staccato account of the main features of Seri culture. The senior author first visited the Seri in 1922 as a member of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. These articles give a brief history of Seri relations with the white men, some idea of the changes in their culture as a result of contact and loss in population, and sketches of the annual cycle, food, livelihood, and social organization. --Analyst]

Field date: 1922-1940
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-Naturalist-5
Processed in 1961

4: Malkin, Borys. Seri Ethnozoology: A Preliminary Report. Davidson Journal of Anthropology, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 73-83. Seattle: Seattle Anthropological Association, 1956.

Cornell University Library: GN 1 D25+

[This article is based on field work done principally in Desemboque, Sonora, as part of a wider comparative study in ethnozoology of several aboriginal groups. It includes data on economic uses, fishing and hunting, food preferences and taboos, pets, and, in some cases, acculturative influences on Seri beliefs and customs concerning animals. The author devotes a large part of his work to more exact knowledge, including native classification of animals, sex differentiation, knowledge of habitats, seasonal factors influencing animal life, age, growth changes and daily variation, food, mating and nesting habits and certain fears of venomous and other animals. Although brief, the article presents an unusually complete report of Seri knowledge of their environment. --Analyst]

Field date: 1953-1955 Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Analyst: George R. Bedell Processed in 1961

5: Dawson, E. Yale. Some Ethnobotanical Notes on the Seri Indians. Desert Plant Life, Vol. 16, pp. 132-138. Pasadena: American Succulent Societies, 1944.

Harvard University: Gray Herbarium

[This brief article presents, along with an introductory note on the Seris and their culture, information concerning the cultural usages of about two dozen desert plants native to the region. Diet, tools, basketry, boat-building and burial practices are some of the subjects treated, but the emphasis is on the identification of the plants concerned and the manner in which they are used. Five photographs accompany the text. The author has published a number of articles dealing with desert plant life. --Analyst]

Field date: 1941
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Naturalist-5
Processed in 1961

6: Monzón, Arturo. La Estructura social de los Seris [Seri Social Structure]. La Sociologia en Mexico, Vol. 1, pp. 89-92. Mexico, D. F., 1953.

Pan American Union Library [HRAF MS pp. 6]

[Translated from the Spanish for HRAF by George R. Bedell]

[The material presented in this source was collected by the author, a well-known Mexican anthropologist, on a three-week visit to the Seri in January, 1952. The data primarily pertains to social relationships within Seri society, as evidenced in household and family relations, and rules and regulations governing the selection of marital partners. Information is also presented on the concept of the social personality. Incidental data may also be found in this article on settlement patterns, household size, relations with non-Seris, sex behavior, and community organization. --Analyst]

Field date: 1952
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1961

7: Marroquín, Alejandro D. The Situation of the Seri Indians of Sonora. Boletín Indigenista, vol. 17, pp. 332-343. Mexico, D.F.: Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, 1957.

Hraf copy

[This source is synthesized from a report by the author on the Seri population and some of its principal problems. It first appeared in Acción Indigenista, No. 36, the information bulletin of the National Indian Institute. The article discusses the problems of sanitation and disease among the Seri with relation to epidemics, dwellings, domestic animals, and alcoholic beverages. In the field of demography, it treats the composition of the population with respect to age, sex and the labor force, indicating division of labor by sex and specialization. In closing, the author presents his recommendations for alleviating some of the problems encountered by the Seri in changing from an independent, semi-nomadic existence to a sedentary life closely interrelated with the Mexican national culture.--Analyst]

Field date: 1955
Analyst: Hesung C. Koh

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1962

8: Ascher, Robert. Ethnography for Archeology: A Case from the Seri Indians. Ethnology, Vol. 1, pp. 360-369. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1962.

HRAF copy.

/This source gives an example of the type of ethnographic data collected from ongoing communities which would be of general value for archeology. The example presented is one particular trait, the making of a harpoon foreshaft, in the trait complex associated with fishing for the Pacific green turtle. From the similarities and variations in this foreshaft construction the author believes that a grouping into classes could be devised, based on individual differences, for example, in manual dexterity required to make these foreshafts which would approximate a normal distribution curve. In addition to amplifying and supporting the above, the author also believes that the data confirms the proposition that behavior can be inferred from the quantitative analysis of its results, and further that "... such quantitative data, if coupled with similar data from other cultural settings, are capable of being used to develop general statistical models of artifact typology which would facilitate

8: Ascher, Robert.

making classifactory decisions based on behavioral realities." (p. 368)
--Analyst/

Field Date: 1960
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1963-1964

9: Malkin, Borys. Seri Ethnozoology. Occasional Papers of the Idaho State College Museum, Number 7. Pocatello, Idaho, 1962.

Pp. v, 68; bibliography; appendix

Yale: CE78 I18 ✓ I3 7

/This source is basically a study of native attitudes and beliefs concerning the various animals found in the native environment. Additional information is also given on the types of animals used as food and the way in which these foods are prepared. After a brief outline of Seri culture, the author takes several major groups of the animal kingdom--mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fishes, mollusca, crustacea, insects and arachnoids, and what the author calls miscellaneous (Annelid worms, Porifera, etc.)--and discusses each from the Seri standpoint in regard to taxonomy and recognition, sex differentiation, age, size and weight, development, food habits, geographical and seasonal distribution, migrations, daily rhythm, habitat and toxicity. A useful list of native animal names with their binomials precedes each division discussed in the text.

9: Malkin, Borys.

The data from which this source was compiled were gathered by the author, with the aid of native informants, during the summer of 1953 and for one week in 1955. The work was accomplished primarily at the Seri settlement of Desemboque. --Analyst/

Field date: 1953-1955
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1963

NU31 Seri

10:Davis, Edward Harvey. The Seri Indian. In Charles Russell Quinn and Elena Quinn, arrangers and editors, Edward H. Davis and the Indians of the Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico. Downey, Cal., Published by Elena Quinn, 1965, pp. 139-224.

Yale: CE78 S7 + Q85.

[This is a popularized account of the author's journey to the Seri of Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California for the purpose of collecting artifacts for the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York. Roberto Thomson, an old and trusted friend of the Seri and the author's chief guide and interpreter on the expedition, was able to establish peaceful relations between the Seri and the author and his small party, thus enabling them to live among several small groups of Seri households, travel with them on their frequent quests for food and water, and to participate actively in many other daily activities of the people.]

Field dates: 1922 - ca. 1939
Analysts: John Beierle, marker
Sigrid Khera, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1966-1968

11: Moser, Edward. Seri Bands. The Kiva, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 14-27. Tucson: Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, 1963.

Yale: C52 319k 28.

[This short article is a description of the structure and organization of bands among the Seri, a food-gathering tribe on the Western Mexican coast. Points of discussion include: territorial distribution of band settlements, their internal subdivisions and dialects spoken, the unilineal features of the clans within the bands, and dynamics of the formation and collapse of the band system. On the last point, the author argues that much internal enmity and hostility within the tribe led to its original splitting up or division into independent band units, but hostile relations and warfare with the Mexican government finally led to destructive changes in band form to the stage where the Seri today remain a single, rather homogeneous society. While the author claims that Seri clans are patrilineal, several sources in this file argue for a matrilineal clan form. On pp. 21-22 of the source the author discusses the composition of the band as being made up of subdivisions called i?iziitang each of which is dominated by a kin group constituting a clan. The author points out that these clans conform to all three major specifications for clan entity as designated by G. P. Murdock in his Social Structure (1949, p. 68), and are therefore "true" clans in the Murdockian sense. The discussion of clans in this source, therefore, has been marked for 618

111 Moser, Edward.

rather than 614; this in contrast to other sources in this file where given less specific information similar data have been placed in the 614 category.

Footnotes appearing in the text will be found at the end of the source in category 116, p. 27.]

Field date: 1956-1961
Analyst: Gilbert Winer

Evaluation: Linguist-5
Processed in 1967

12: Moser, Mary Beck. Seri Blue. The Kiva, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 27-32. Tucson: Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, 1964.

Yale: C52 319k 30.

[This brief source treats of the methods for manufacturing and preparing "blue clay," a pigment which is a base for cosmetics used in facial painting, body decoration, pottery and ornament design, and as a shamanistic healing substance. In some detail, the author describes all the processes and procedures which she saw her woman informant use in converting plant and mineral matter into the pigment. The social or economic implications or ramifications of cosmetic use or preparation are not dealt with by the author. Footnotes appearing in the text will be found at the end of the source in cat. 116, p. 32.]

Field date: ca. 1960
Analyst: Gilbert Winer

Evaluation: Linguist-5
Processed in 1967